Purchase of IL-38 surveillance aircraft

257. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE by pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Navy is planning to buy IL-38 surveillance aircraft to make up the considerably reduced naval surveillance capacity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the existing IL-38 in the Navy are also going to be upgraded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A case is under process to buy two IL-38 aircraft as replacement for two such aircraft lost in an accident on 1st October, 2002. The existing three IL-38 aircraft in the Navy are being modernized and refurbished in Russia. The proposed refurbishment will enhance the life of the aircraft by another 15 years and also strengthen its surveillance capability.

Shortage of torpedoes in the Navy

258. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RA1: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of torpedo in Navy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to remove this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indian Navy has sufficient torpedoes to arm all its operational submarines, ships and aircraft.

(b) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.